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From the Marine Research Group, FNCV

It has been more than a year since his passing, but memories of Clarrie Handreck remain strong in the minds of all whose lives he touched. His boundless enthusiasm for our coastline, the animals inhabiting it and their conservation was infectious. As anyone who knew him will attest, Clarrie was a natural teacher who never wasted an opportunity to impart some of his knowledge to eager and interested listeners. On the many field trips to the coast that I had the privilege of attending with him, I was always astounded at how Clarrie could name and give a brief life history of nearly every marine invertebrate that was encountered.

With its high percentage of endemic species and wide variety of habitats, the southern coastline of Australia is unique, and ongoing study is required to unlock the secrets of its inhabitants. In its various guises over more than 50 years the MRG has contributed to our understanding of the lives of the animals found in this often harsh environment. Today the MRG continues the work that began with the Group's inception, with an ongoing program of field trips to various localities along our shores, documenting the animals present and adding the species observed to an already impressive database.

Until his 'retirement' in 1996, Clarrie had been the organisational backbone of the Marine Research Group of Victoria, as the group's secretary for more than 20 years, and was instrumental in merging the Group with the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. Until he was too ill to continue, Clarrie attended and contributed to both MRG meetings, and work days at Museum Victoria.

This special edition of *The Victorian Naturalist* is devoted to increasing our knowledge of the marine fauna of our wonderful coast. It is dedicated to Clarrie Handreck and I for one cannot think of a more fitting way to honour the life of this remarkable man.

Michael Lyons
President, Marine Research Group
Field Naturalists Club of Victoria

Front cover: Clarrie Handreck in his beloved marine environment. Photo by Joan Broadberry.